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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,045	04/03/2001	Miroslav Trajkovic	US010168	1991

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER

WOO, STELLA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/825,045	Applicant(s) TRAJKOVIC ET AL.	
	Examiner Stella L. Woo	Art Unit 2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,7-18 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 7-18, 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 7-18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rast (US 2001/0046304 A1).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 7-18, 20, Rast discloses a selective noise canceling headset (headset 10), comprising:

at least one earpiece for reproducing a selected audio signal (earpieces 14a, 14b include speakers 56a, 56b which reproduce a selected audio signal from audio source connection 52; Figs. 1, 3; paragraphs 49, 53);

a microphone for monitoring an external audio signal in a vicinity of said headset (microphones 58a and 58b monitor sounds within the external acoustical environment; paragraph 53); and

a selective noise suppression circuit for analyzing said external audio signal (headset circuitry provides selective acoustic isolation; Abstract; paragraph 14), including:

an audio classifier (DSP/microcontroller 62 processes audio signals from microphones 58a, 58b and correlates these signals with a set of audio selection criterion, which can comprise sound related algorithm, so that desired external signals are identified and passed to the user in a "hearthrough mode," the desired signals can be spoken phrases directed to the user such as "Hey!", "Hello," "Wearer's Name," "Help," a phone ringing, a doorbell sound, a siren, an alarm, screams, horns, etc.; paragraphs 16-22, 53-55); and

a noise canceling circuit (headset can include a noise canceling circuit; paragraph 23) being responsive to the presence of said use signal to pass at least a portion of said external audio signal along with said selected audio signal for reproduction (user can choose to attenuate the select audio signal when a desired external signal is determined, paragraphs 51, 59; the select audio signal can be attenuated while the external sound is amplified, paragraph 61), and responsive to the presence of said suppress signal to prevent passage of at least a portion of said external signal (headset provides active noise cancellation which normally attenuates all external sounds by a given amount; paragraph 52), said noise canceling circuit also being selectively operable for canceling said selected audio signal during presence of said use signal (the audio source signal can be entirely blocked during a "hearthrough mode"; paragraphs 51, 53, 59), wherein said audio classifier can initiate a recorded message responsive to said external audio signal indicating a predefined audio segment (a recorded sound associated with the stored selection criterion can be played to indicate recognized audio signal; paragraph 23).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed December 14, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that "Rast does not disclose or suggest a recorded message responsive to the external audio signal indicating a predefined audio segment. However, as described in the above rejection, Rast clearly teaches playing a recorded sound associated with a stored selection criterion when an external audio signal is recognized (paragraph 23).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

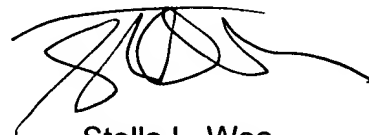
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-7512. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stella L. Woo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stella L. Woo
Primary Examiner
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